

## HINTS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Hints web site [www.hints-village.com](http://www.hints-village.com)  
Rev. Fiona Haskett 01543 432233

### Editor's notes (Peter Edwards)

I would like copy for the Newsletter before (about) the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. I need to print about 85 copies of the newsletter. If you are willing to receive it by e-mail, send me an e-mail saying so. So far I've had 47 takers. Please help by saving postage and printing costs!

### Breakfast in the Village Hall (Debbie Whittaker)

There will not be a breakfast "club" in March as it clashes with Mothering Sunday - the next will be Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, cost £5. Contact Deb on 01543 480090 or [grahamawhittaker@gmail.com](mailto:grahamawhittaker@gmail.com) to book. Thank you to Elaine and Jez for a superb breakfast this month.

### A BLAST FROM THE PAST continued (Janet Clarke)

In November 1990 the new curate for Mile Oak and Hints will be the Rev. David Anderson. He and his wife, Marianne, will be coming from Cardiff.

Licensing will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> December, probably at St. Barnabas, Mile Oak. Also in the November newsletter a "Conker" match will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

This proved to be a big draw, although suspicions were raised concerning the "doctoring" of a conker which refused to shatter. The date of a Christmas Fayre was publicised in the December newsletter. The construction of a stage was high on the Village Hall Committee meeting agenda, following the merest whisper of a "Show" in the wings. Rumours that a certain Robert Spurrier fancies himself as a budding Pavarotti and others see Peter Edwards as another John Travolta. What other talent might there be in the village? (*After twenty odd years the "HINTS OF TALENT" Show proved that there was!!*)

January 1991 and the New Year's Party was a sell out and the Christmas Fayre raised £500 for church funds. After all the festivities there should be a few volunteers for the proposed "Keep Fit" class in the village hall - June Spurrier should soon be circulating the details. In February 1991 the newsletter reported the deaths of Jack Bosworth on the 31<sup>st</sup> January (from No. 5 bungalow) and Betty Snelson (late of Blackbrook Farm). The Rev. David Anderson was a surprise member of the congregation at the Holy Communion Service on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope he was suitably impressed by our church, if not by the size of the congregation. Hopefully there will be a much better turnout for him at the Carol Service on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Bird update (Janet Clarke)

Very, very slowly the birds are returning to the seed and nut containers. We have numerous blue tits, long tailed tits and coal tits. The chaffinches are slowly returning and the other morning, perched high in a tree, there was one singing at the top of his voice and this was wonderful to hear and is hopefully a sign that spring is coming.

(Could he be telling us that the rest of them are on their way)? We were very pleased to see a greenfinch at the seed container, he's the first we have seen so far.

We are hearing more bird song now, especially when the sun is shining and the weather is slightly warmer. A regular visitor to the nuts is the greater spotted woodpecker who is remarkably clean - could be the torrential rain that has smartened his feathers! Two robins were seen recently having a dispute, probably concerning territorial rights! We have yet again re-sited two feeding stations, hoping to fool the

sparrow hawk - I'm sure we shall succeed soon. One of our new bird boxes was being inspected a few days ago by a blue tit; hope it meets with his/her approval. It is lovely to see so many hazel catkins in the hedgerows and judging by the number of molehills everywhere, "the little gentlemen in black velvet" have been extremely busy. A Red Kite has been sighted over Bourne Brook being chased by several crows. As far as we know this large bird has not been seen in this area before.

### **Garden Guild (Maureen Casson)**

Once again an excellent meeting of members took place in the Village Hall on Thursday 13th February when we welcomed our Speaker Roger Hailwood. We were taken on a journey to the other side of the world as we visited, with slides, a journey around North Island in New Zealand. We saw beautiful scenes of mountains and lakes, and enjoyed pictures of Roger and family walking on the boardwalk over the delicate surfaces that had been formed from volcanic ash and are only just beginning to produce heathers and small flowers and visiting the snow capped mountains.

Mud and hot springs gave us much food for thought as did the visit to a Maori village with much showing of tongues and 'rubber' like faces and we received instruction of how the 'skirts' were made from flax. A most enjoyable evening, and thank you to Anne and Chris for serving refreshments.

Our March meeting, on the second Thursday, will be rather different and may even be interactive as we will be 'bodging' it was unfortunate that the bodger had to cancel at the last minute in 2013, but on that occasion we enjoyed willow weaving, so we are really looking forward to finding out about 'bodging' In charge of the refreshments on this occasion will be Paul and Joan.

### **Social Club (Stuart Turton)**

Big Screen Events!!

Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> 6 Nations Rugby live on the big screen – England v Wales Kick Off 3.00pm, bar opens at 2.00pm

Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> 6 Nations Rugby live on the big screen Italy v England Kick Off at 1.30pm, bar opens at 1.00pm

The pool competition will be run on a Friday evening date yet to be decided - if you wish to participate please see the Events notice board in the Village hall .

Just a quick note of thanks to everyone who was able to attend the village hall Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March to give Alan and Angela a good send off from the village. It was great to see the village hall so busy and the atmosphere buzzing. Lets all try to make the effort in using this marvellous facility on our doorstep. Open on a Wednesday and a Friday evening from 8.30 and on other occasions dependant on events. Whilst Wednesdays are very quiet Friday nights are starting to build up so even if its for a quick pop in pint or glass of wine –please do so if you can. Hand pulled real ales and a good selection of wines and spirits with willing and friendly volunteers manning the bar.

We send our regular flyers regarding events at the village hall by email – if you are not receiving it and would wish to please contact me by email:

[stuartturton@surespancovers.com](mailto:stuartturton@surespancovers.com)

### **New villagers (John Toogood)**

David Thomas and Susan Salmon have moved into 35 Watling St formerly occupied by John and Linda who have moved to Inkwell Cottage. We would like to extend a warm welcome to David and Susan and look forward to seeing them down the Village Hall in the near future.

### **Social Club (Kevin Caine)**

This year's AGM will be Wednesday 2nd April at 8pm in the village hall. The Social Club is responsible for stocking and staffing the bar for the many village and private functions throughout the year, and the AGM is an opportunity to review the past year and confirm the committee for the coming year. If you are able to help or if you would just like to see what goes on, do please come down to the hall. You will be made very welcome and the bar will be open after the AGM, of course.

### **Spring Walk (David Fifield)**

Hints villagers and friends are invited to a Spring walk on Sunday 27th April. The walk will take a circular route from the Village Hall of about 8 miles with some stiles and stretches of uneven ground. We shall leave at 10.0am. All welcome, Bring a packed lunch + coffee. Return to the Village Hall by about 3.0pm

### **Valentine's Night (Debbie Whittaker)**

The Mr & Mrs winners for 2014 were Stuart and Lynne Turton. Their trophies can be seen hanging in the bar in the village hall. They were the only couple to achieve a ten out of ten score. Some couples didn't do nearly as good but the competition was fierce. Thank you to everyone who attended.

### **Pontoon (Graham Whittaker)**

The numbers are growing for the football pontoon and we should pass the £1000 barrier, for funds raised to date for the church, in March. Please contact Graham Whittaker if you wish to join.

### **Village Hall AGM (Graham Whittaker)**

The village hall AGM will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 7 May.

We are looking for new committee members so please contact me or one of the other committee members if you wish to know what is involved. There is of course a serious side to the decisions made by the committee but the Vicar of Dibley springs to mind. Finally if anyone knows if the life president is still alive we would like to know!

### **Village events meeting (Elaine Clarke)**

At last night's Village Hall meeting there was a lengthy discussion about potential events this year for fund raising for the village (for both the Village Hall and Church). Additionally, as there is still £2000 remaining in the Open Gardens Bank Account, it was felt a good idea to organise an 'Events Meeting' for this to be discussed further.

As such, there will be a Village Events Meeting held on **Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 8pm** in the Village Hall. This will be open to anyone from the village who wishes to attend and get involved!

**St. Bartholomew's  
CHURCH SERVICES MARCH 2014**

<b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion Rev. Fiona Haskett</b>
<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Roy Clarke Janet Clarke</b>	<b>Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11</b>
<b>Sides person:</b>	<b>Val Edwards</b>	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship Rev. Fiona Haskett</b>
<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Gill Needle Val Edwards</b>	<b>Exodus 17:1-17 John 4:5-42</b>
<b>Sides person:</b>	<b>Gill Needle</b>	

**CONTACT DETAILS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

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**Hints web site [www.hints-village.com](http://www.hints-village.com)**

**Vicar – Rev. Fiona Haskett 432233**

**Churchwardens – Jeannette White 480066 and  
Simon Clarke 07798 740209**

**Chairman of the Village Hall - Graham Whittaker 480090**

**Chairman of the Social Club – Stuart Turton 481162**

**Chairman of Hints with Canwell Parish Council**

**Geoff Kynaston 0121 308 6145**

**Chairperson of the Garden Guild – Maureen Casson 481151**

**Art History - Val Edwards 480088**

**Village Hall Bookings Secretary - Gill Needle 481220**

**Art Classes – Janet Clarke 481214**

**Babysitter (Sophie Lockley)**

Babysitter available, My name is Sophie, I'm 14, looking to babysit on evenings and weekends. Contact me by my email, [steelsl@live.co.uk](mailto:steelsl@live.co.uk) or send me a text on 07586355548

**Art for St Bart's (Val Edwards)**

We are working our way through northern European artists from Van Eyck to Vermeer and still have a long way to go, so if you are new to Art History please feel free to come and join in. Monday evenings at the Village Hall: 7:30 to 9:30, £3 per session including refreshments, all proceeds to St Bartholomew's Church.